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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *PIPILO FUSCUS*

By HARRY C. OBERHOLSER

A SERIES of towhees from the middle portion of the peninsula of Lower California appears to belong to an undescribed subspecies. Though occupying a geographic position intermediate between *Pipilo fuscus senicula* of northern Lower California and *Pipilo fuscus albigulus*¹ of the Cape San Lucas region, they are, nevertheless, sufficiently different from both to render their subspecific separation desirable. We accordingly purpose for them the name

***Pipilo fuscus aripolius*, subsp. nov.**

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Pipilo fuscus albigulus* Baird, but tail longer; upper parts much darker and more grayish; breast, sides, and flanks, darker and less brownish (more purely grayish); crissum slightly, and throat decidedly, darker, and the latter not so much paler than the posterior lower parts.

Description.—Type, adult female, no. 196605, U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection; San Pablo, Lower California, October 3, 1905; E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman; original number, 11747. Pileum brown, between dark russet and hazel, the feathers edged with mouse gray; cervix, back, scapulars and rump, between mouse gray and hair brown; but the centers of the feathers on the interscapulum with a distinct wood brown tinge; upper tail-coverts between olive brown and deep olive, with narrow tips of tawny olive; tail fuscus, the rectrices with narrow tips of deep ochraceous tawny; wings rather dark hair brown, but the outer primaries narrowly edged with pale smoke gray, the remaining primaries, together with the secondaries, edged with hair brown, the outer webs of the greater wing-coverts like the centers of the feathers on the interscapulum; rest of the wing-coverts, together with tertials, margined with rather light mouse gray; lores, maxilla, malar region, and eye-ring, cinnamon, more or less mixed with gray and chaetura drab; auriculars chaetura drab, streaked with pure light grayish; superciliary stripe, supra-auricular region and the sides of the neck, gray like the scapulars; posterior auricular region tinged with cinnamon; chin and throat cinnamon, but the posterior portion of the latter cinnamon buff, this throat-patch streaked or spotted all around, though in places obscurely, with chaetura drab; breast and sides of body between light drab and mouse gray; flanks of the same color but washed with ochraceous; center of breast dull white; center of abdomen creamy white; crissum between tawny and ochraceous tawny, but nearer the latter; thighs like the sides of the body but somewhat darker; lining of wing gray like the sides of the neck, but the feathers margined with whitish or pale buff.

Measurements.—Male (three specimens, from Lower California): wing, 88.5-92 (average, 90.5) mm.; tail, 103-107.5 (105.2); exposed culmen, 14.5-14.8 (14.7); tarsus, 24-26.5 (25.3); middle toe without claw, 17-18.5 (17.8).

Female (five specimens, from Lower California): wing, 81-92.5 (average, 86.8) mm.; tail, 96.5-105 (100.5); exposed culmen, 14-15 (14.4); tarsus, 25.5-26 (25.9); middle toe without claw, 17-18.8 (17.9).

Geographic distribution.—Middle portion of the peninsula of Lower California, south to Guajademi, at about 26° 30' north latitude, and north to Santa Rosalia Bay, at about 28° 40' north latitude.

Remarks.—This new subspecies is similar to *Pipilo fuscus senicula*, but is lighter and somewhat more grayish (less brownish) on the upper surface, more grayish on the breast, sides and flanks, nearly pure white (not buff or cream color) on the middle of the lower breast and the upper abdomen. The throat is

¹The subspecific term *albigula* is a perfectly good Latin adjective, like *albicomus* (*albicomus*). and should in this connection stand as *albigulus* to agree in gender with *Pipilo*.

also paler and less uniform, i. e., distinctly lighter posteriorly, and the crissum averages paler. While *Pipilo fuscus aripolius* is intermediate between *Pipilo fuscus senicula* and *Pipilo fuscus albigulus*, it is more grayish than either, and has other good characters of its own; furthermore, it occupies a distinct geographic area, over which it is fairly uniform. There is comparatively little individual variation in the series that we have examined. An example from Santa Rosalia Bay, Lower California (no. 196602, U. S. Nat. Mus.) taken April 25, 1905, is intermediate between this new race and *Pipilo fuscus senicula*, but is apparently nearer the former. A specimen (no. 196609, U. S. Nat. Mus.) from Guajademi, Lower California, taken October 31, 1905, verges strongly toward *Pipilo fuscus albigulus*, but its grayness and darkness both above and below, together with its other characters, place it with *Pipilo fuscus aripolius*. Birds from the Rancho Santo Domingo, Lower California, 25 miles south of San Jorge at about 25° 25' north latitude, are also somewhat intermediate but are clearly referable to *Pipilo fuscus albigulus*; while those from Yubay, Lower California, 30 miles southeast of Calamahué, at about 29° 15' north latitude, though likewise intermediate, are referable to *Pipilo fuscus senicula*.

This new form is of considerable interest since it establishes direct and complete liaison in both geographic distribution and in characters between *Pipilo fuscus senicula* and *Pipilo fuscus albigulus*, and shows clearly that these birds, commonly regarded as distinct species, are but sub-specifically related. Since *Pipilo fuscus albigulus* intergrades individually with *Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus* of northwestern Mexico and Arizona, it follows that *Pipilo crissalis* and its races are all subspecies of *Pipilo fuscus*.

By the separation of this new race the geographic distribution of *Pipilo fuscus albigulus* becomes restricted more closely to the southern part of the peninsula of Lower California, ranging from Cape San Lucas north to about 25° 25' north latitude.

The table given below shows the locality as well as the detailed measurements of all the specimens of *Pipilo fuscus aripolius* examined.

SPECIMENS OF *PIPILO FUSCUS ARIPOLIUS* ALL TAKEN IN LOWER CALIFORNIA
BY E. W. NELSON AND E. A. GOLDMAN

U. S. Nat. Mus. no.	Sex	Locality	Date	Wing	Tail	Exposed culmen	Tarsus	Middle toe without claw
196603	♂	San Pablo	Oct. 3, 1905	92	105	14.5	26.5	18
196609	♂	Guajademi	Oct. 31, 1905	88.5	103	14.8	24	18.5
196602	♂	Santa Rosalia Bay	Sept. 25, 1905	91	107.5	14.8	25.5	17
196605	♀	San Pablo	Oct. 3, 1905	92.5	105	15	26	18.5
196606	♀	San Pablo	Oct. 3, 1905	87.5	101.5	14.2	25.5	18
196607	♀	San Pablo	Oct. 3, 1905	81	96.5	15	26	17
196604	[♀]	San Pablo	Oct. 3, 1905	88	100	14	26	17
196608	[♀]	25 miles east of San Ignacio	Oct. 19, 1905	85	99.5	14	26	18.8

Washington, D. C., May 31, 1919.